

U.S. Consulate General Dubai Newsletter

MARCH 2014



American Citizen Services
Dubai Newsletter

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Income Tax Filing Deadline

April 15 , 2014

For the most current information on Income Taxes, visit
www.IRS.gov. The Consulate also has some general information
on taxes, including a short list of local companies to help you
prepare at:

http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/dubai_income_tax.html



Want to speak
with an IRS
representative in
the U.S.?
1-800-829-1040

Need an Extension?
Information is avail-
able on the IRS web-
site by clicking
[HERE!](#)

International tax
payers can find
more information
[HERE!](#)

FREE FILE

**Do Your Federal Taxes
for FREE!**

U.S. Citizens and Residents Abroad



If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an [automatic 2-month extension](#) to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. Check www.IRS.gov for more information.





You are invited to an

ACS Spring Open House

With Special Presentation by the Regional Federal Benefits Unit

Thursday, April 17, 2014 • 3:00-5:00PM

at the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai

Consular Entrance

The American Citizen Services section is honored to invite all American citizens and their immediate families to our Spring Open House.

- *Meet the Consul General*
- *Listen to information on Filing Claims, Social Security and Retirement Benefits*
- *Meet Consulate Staff*
- *Enjoy delicious food and drinks sold by our U.S. Marines*

Please RSVP to DubaiACS@state.gov with the full names and U.S. passport numbers of all attending and use the subject: **ACS Spring Open House RSVP**

**Regular ACS services will not be provided on this day*

**We will not be able to check the status of Social Security Applications*

Regular security procedures will be in place, please bring your U.S. passport and leave large bags and phones at home or in the car.

There is no dedicated public parking for the U.S. Consulate General. However, there is ample paid parking across the street near the Creek or near the British Consulate.

For the Consulate location, go to our [website](#).



Frequently Asked About...

Social Security Numbers

U.S. citizens may apply for a Social Security Number at the U.S. Consulate. While the U.S. Consulate does not have a Social Security Administration representative in Dubai, we can accept your applications and forward them to the regional overseas office. There is no fee for this service. Please note that the process can take up to 12 months and the Social Security cards will be mailed to your P.O. Box in the UAE; Social Security cards may not be mailed to the U.S. Consulate. If you are planning a trip to the U.S. in the near future, you may apply for an SSN in the U.S. where the process is much quicker, usually under two weeks.

The SSA will not reply to inquiries on applications that were submitted less than 12 months ago. If you have submitted your SSN application with us more than 12 months ago and still have not received the card, there are several options:

- We can email SSA and inquire if an SSN was assigned. If so, they may be able to send us the number.
- You may submit a new SSN application with us, however the process could take another 12 months.
- You may apply again in the U.S. with SSA directly. For the full details of how to apply in the U.S. please check with SSA at <http://ssa.gov/ssnumber/>.



Have you filed your Income Taxes yet? Every American citizen, no matter if he or she lives in the United States or abroad has a responsibility to file U.S. Income Taxes. If you're not sure of the regulations or you do not know if you need to file, please check with the Internal Revenue Service. While there is no IRS representative at the U.S. Consulate, ACS has some information on Income Taxes and companies that can help you file from the UAE on our website at http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/dubai_income_tax.html.



Did you know that the Consular Section has a weekly "Ask the Consul" session on our Facebook page. Often, ACS posts information relevant to our American citizens, upcoming events and about our services. If you haven't yet, please consider liking our page -- <https://www.facebook.com/USConsulateGeneralDubai>.

As the number of American citizens and tourists to Dubai increases, appointments for ACS services are filling fast. There's no need to wait until the busy summer season to renew your passport. Look at your passport today to see when it expires and make an appointment with us. Remember that for children under the age of 16, both parents must be present when renewing a child's passport.

ACS is hosting our annual Spring Open House on April 17 and we hope that you and your immediate families will be able to join us. This is a great opportunity to see the Consulate, meet the staff, mingle with fellow Americans, and this year hear valuable information on Federal Benefits. Make sure you RSVP. The entire ACS section hopes to see you there!

Finally, as March 8 was International Women's Day 2014, please join me in celebrating the women who came before us and have helped to shape our history and the women of today and tomorrow who will shape our future.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

For the most current information on the Affordable Care Act, please visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) website at <https://www.healthcare.gov/>. The HHS website includes a link to information about whether U.S. citizens residing abroad are subject to ACA at: <https://www.healthcare.gov/am-i-eligible-for-coverage-in-the-marketplace/>. Information on Federal Benefits and Obligations, including the Affordable Care Act, is also available on the Department of State's Website at: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/abroad/legal-matters/benefits.html>.

Tax Issues related to the Affordable Care Act

For tax issues related to ACA, see the ACA page within the IRS website <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Affordable-Care-Act-Tax-Provisions-Home>. The IRS site provides further links/web pages, depending on whether you are an individual, employer, or other organization. For more information, see the Question and Answer page for Individuals at <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Questions-and-Answers-on-the-Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision>.



TSA Pre✓™ allows select frequent flyers of participating airlines and members of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler programs who are flying on participating airlines, to receive expedited screening benefits. Eligible participants use dedicated screening lanes for screening benefits which include leaving on shoes, light outerwear and belts, as well as leaving laptops and 3-1-1 compliant liquids in carry-on bags.

Learn more about how you can participate and receive expedited screening.



New York Cheesecake

Ingredients:	
2 cups sour cream	1 1/2 cups sugar
5 large eggs	2 tbl spoon cornstarch
4 8-ounce packages cream cheese	1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
8 tablespoons (one stick) unsalted butter	1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
	1 teaspoon grated lemon zest

Generously butter the inside of a 10-inch spring form pan. Wrap a double layer of heavy-duty aluminum foil tightly around the outside bottom and sides, crimping and pleating the foil to make it conform to the pan. This will help to prevent water seeping into the pan when you put it into the bain-marie. Position the baking rack in the center of the oven; preheat the oven to 300* Fahrenheit.

In a large mixing bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the eggs with the sour cream until well blended.

In a medium-sized bowl, beat the cream cheese with the butter until smooth and creamy. Add this to the egg-sour cream mixture and beat until smooth.

Add the sugar, cornstarch, vanilla, lemon juice and lemon zest and beat thoroughly, about 2 minutes.

Pour into the prepared spring form pan and place in a roasting pan (or other pan) large enough to prevent the sides from touching. Place in the oven and carefully pour in enough very hot tap water to reach halfway up the sides of the springform pan.

Bake for 2 hours, 15 minutes, or until the cake is very lightly colored and a knife inserted in the center emerges clean. Remove from the water bath and carefully peel the aluminum foil from around the pan. Let stand at room temperature until completely cool, about 4 hours. Refrigerate, covered, until well chilled.

March is Women's History Month

Learn more about Women's History Month and read about some of the outstanding women of history; visit <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

“ As we honor the many women who have shaped our history, let us also celebrate those who make progress in our time. Let us remember that when women succeed, America succeeds. And from Wall Street to Main street, in the White House and on Capitol Hill -- let us put our Nation on the path to success. ” -Barack Obama



Voting in U.S. Elections While Abroad

U.S. citizens overseas are encouraged to participate in our democratic process by voting from abroad. New regulations for overseas voting are now in effect. If you want to vote while you are outside the United States, you should send a completed Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to your local election officials every year. It's easy to do - just go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at www.FVAP.gov to start the process. This is the official U.S. Government website for overseas absentee voting information.



We strongly recommend you get in the habit of submitting a new FPCA every January to ensure you receive ballots for all the elections in which you are eligible to vote during the calendar year. In addition to the November general elections held every other year, you may be eligible to vote in federal or state primary elections, special elections, emergency elections, and runoff elections.

You can obtain an FPCA at [FVAP's website](http://www.fvap.gov). The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all U.S. states and territories. An online wizard will help you complete the form. Depending on your state's voting requirements, you then either send in the FPCA electronically or mail it to your local election officials. To mail it, print out the completed FPCA and the (U.S.) postage-paid envelope containing the address of your local election officials. If you bring in your forms or ballots to us we will mail them back home for you without you having to pay for international mail. If it's easier for you to use UAE's postal system, be sure to affix sufficient postage and allow sufficient time for international mail delivery.

You cannot vote or register to vote at the Consulate. However, the Consulate will have a limited number of FPCA and Federal Write in Absentee Ballots (FWAB) which you may complete at the Consulate and send in to the appropriate office for your place of residence as outlined at www.fvap.gov.

You may drop off your completed forms or ballots any Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 12:30 pm and 3:00 pm, except for local and U.S. holidays. If you need help completing your FPCA or FWAB, please contact us at DubaiACS@state.gov.



Summer is quickly approaching! Is Your Passport Ready?



We love to plan our trips in advance but have you looked at the expiration date on your passport? Make sure your passport will be valid for any possible upcoming trips and make an appointment to renew it if necessary. And check the kids' passports also!!

You may renew your passport at any time,
even 6-8 months before it expires!

To apply for a passport, visit our website at <http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/passports.html> for the forms and other necessary documentation required and please make an online appointment on our [online appointment system](#).

Top Five Travel Tips for Spring Break 2014

For some college students, Spring Break is a time to bask in the Caribbean sun. Some use their respite from classes to volunteer in a foreign country. Others venture across the Atlantic to embark upon a European adventure or to visit friends studying abroad. Regardless of the destination, the U.S. Department of State encourages students to follow our tips for traveling abroad:

- 1) Avoid underage and excessive alcohol consumption. "Overdoing it" can lead to an arrest, accident, violent crime, or death.
- 2) Obey all local laws, and remember they might be different from our own. Don't carry or use drugs, as this can result in severe penalties. Don't carry weapons either—some countries have strict laws, and even possessing something as small as a pocketknife or a single bullet can get you into legal trouble.
- 3) Before you leave for your trip, learn as much as possible about your destination at our website dedicated to student travelers: studentsabroad.state.gov. Here, you can find out about entry requirements, crime, health precautions, and road conditions.
- 4) Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). This program keeps students up-to-date with important safety and security announcements, such as [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and security messages.
- 5) Keep in touch with your parents. If you will be without Internet or phone service for a few days, let them know. We receive many calls from parents who fear the worst when they have not heard from their children. In most cases, their child is fine, but has been too busy to check in.

Source: travel.state.gov

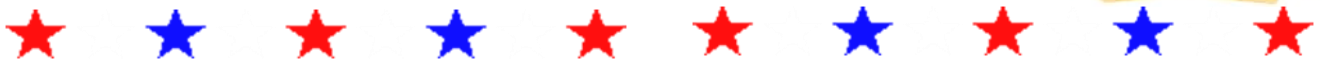


More Travel Tips

Sign your passport, and fill in the emergency information: Make sure you have a signed, valid passport, and a visa, if required, and fill in the emergency information page of your passport. Write the contact information in pencil so you can change it as needed over time:

Leave copies of itinerary, passport data page, and credit card: What happens if there's an emergency back home? Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends so you can be contacted in case of an emergency. Leave a copy of your credit card too; in an emergency, the credit card company can help your family locate you.

Familiarize yourself with local conditions and laws: The State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html> has useful safety, transportation and other information about the countries you will visit.



Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

<https://step.state.gov/step/>



The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country.

STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency.

STEP also allows Americans residing abroad to get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate

To remove yourself from the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP):

- If you are no longer in Dubai and do not wish to receive these messages, go to <https://step.state.gov> and update your profile with current information.
- You may leave the list at any time by sending "SIGNOFF POST_DUBAI" in the subject line to LISTSERV@CALIST.STATE.GOV.



Always be prepared.

www.READY.gov and

www.FEMA.gov have information on preparing for any emergency. Visit both websites to learn what to do before, during and after an emergency.

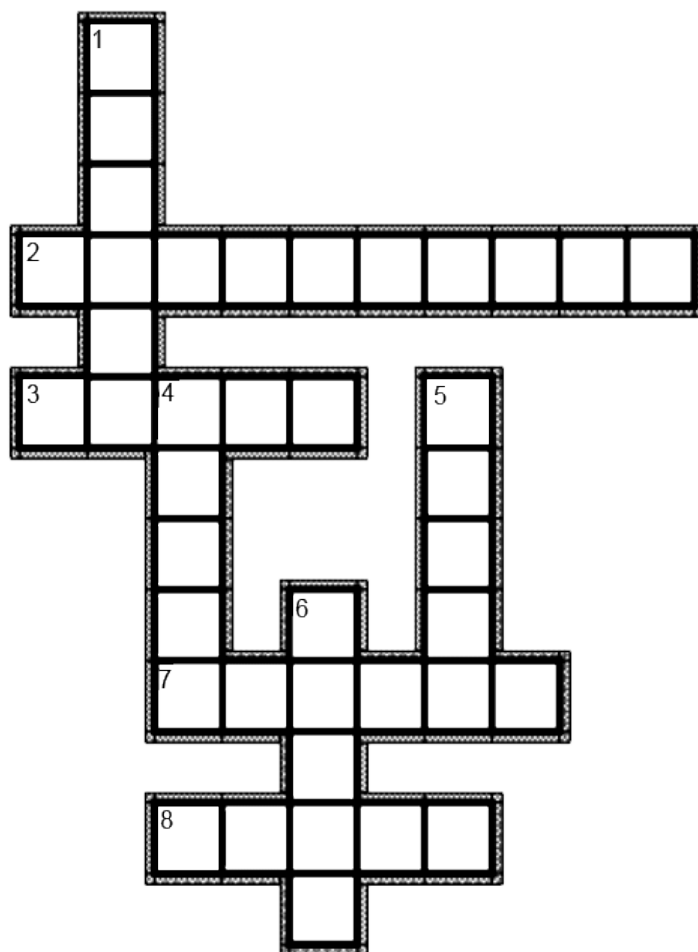


Follow these icons to different links to stay connected with the Department of State!

STAYING CONNECTED



Women's Day Crossword



Across	Down
2. An international women's conference was held here in 1910.	1. In Italy, men gift this flower to women on International Women's Day
3. International Women's Day is observed in this month.	4. This popular IWD symbol represents women's continuing efforts for a better quality of life
7. International Women's Day is also celebrated as the first _____ holiday in the Northern Hemisphere.	5. He is the personification of time
8. _____ Zetkin, the woman who tabled the idea of an International Women's Day in 1910	5. He was persuaded by feminist Alexandra Kollontai to make IWD an official holiday in the Soviet Union
	6. This famous IWD symbol represents women's struggle for economic

Upcoming Holidays / Consulate Closing

Staff Training	March 26, 2014
Staff Training	April 16, 2014
Spring Open House	April 17, 2014
Memorial Day	May 25, 2014
The Prophet's Ascension Day*	May 25, 2014
Independence Day	July 3, 2014
Eid Al Fitr	July 29-31, 2014
Labor Day	Aug 31, 2014
Arafat (Haj) Day*	Oct 4, 2014
Eid Al Adha*	Oct 5-6 2014
Columbus Day	Oct 12, 2014

The U.S. Consulate is closed on these holidays. In addition, the American Citizen Services section is closed on most Mondays. To see which days ACS is open and accepting appointments, please visit our appointment calendar on our website [HERE](#).



ACS Appointment System

In order to provide the most efficient service to our community, the American Citizen Section at the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai has established an appointment system for all routine services. Please book an appointment online at dubai.usconsulate.gov under U.S. Citizen Services. When you have made your appointment, a confirmation page will appear on your screen. Please print the confirmation page and bring it with you on the day of your appointment. We do not allow walk-in appointments.

Emergency appointments are provided on an as-needed basis; please send an email to DubaiACS@state.gov. We answer our emails daily.

Contact Us

Telephone number: +971 4 309 4000

ACS Public Phone Hours: daily 8:00-10:00

(ask the operator to transfer to x.3103)

Email: DubaiACS@state.gov

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/USConsulateGeneralDubai>

Emergency: +971-4-309 4000, ask for the Duty Officer.

Dubai Emergency Numbers

Police/Ambulance:: 999

Fire: 997



The U.S. Consulate General in Dubai is located at the Corner of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Road and Al Seef Road, Bur Dubai, Dubai, UAE